



MEDIA ADVISORY

Public Affairs Office
Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command
1562 Mitscher Avenue,
Suite 250
Norfolk, Va. 23551-2487
(757) 836-4426
Fax: (757) 836-3601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Advisory 07-12
Feb. 7, 2011

Bold Alligator 2012 Ospreys Replenish Marines Ashore from MSC Ship

****Opportunity to embark USNS Robert E. Peary (T-AKE-5) to observe Osprey flight ops****

NORFOLK, Va – MV-22 Ospreys will land and launch on a Military Sealift Command dry cargo ship — for only the second time — to replenish Marines involved in an air-to-ground simulated assault at Fort Pickett, Va., Feb. 9, as part of Bold Alligator 2012.

The ospreys will land on USNS Robert E. Peary (T-AKE-5) to load fuel, meal-ready-to-eat (MRE) packs and ammunition to deliver to Marines of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (24th MEU).

The replenishment is a “proof of concept” experiment in equipping Marines to sustain expeditionary operations even while being significantly inland; Fort Pickett is 150 miles from the coast. Instead of conducting an immediate insertion and extraction, the Marines will sustain operations for five days. The replenishment conducted by Peary is a key part of the overall sea-to-shore training objectives of Bold Alligator 12, which focuses on leveraging sea-based assets to launch strikes ashore or disaster relief operations.

The replenishment via Ospreys is set to occur following an assault at Fort Pickett two days earlier, which also used Ospreys as well as CH-53 Sea Stallions from USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44) and USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7).

An annual exercise, Bold Alligator is part of an ongoing commitment by the Navy and Marine Corps to revitalize the fundamentals of amphibious operations and strengthen the services’ traditional role as “warfighters from the sea.”

-USFF-

NOTE: Media wishing to cover the raid at Fort Pickett should contact Bold Alligator Joint Information Bureau (757) 836-4426. no later than, Feb. 7 at 2 p.m. Media will be driven to the site from Norfolk Naval Station’s Pass and ID office and will be returned at the end of the day.

A tentative Schedule of Events is as follows:

February 8:

1400 Check in at Landmark Aviation Terminal

1430 Safety Brief and preparation for flight

1500 Depart for T-AKE Peary

Remain overnight

February 9:

1100-1300 Observe MV-22 ops

Remain overnight

February 10:

TBD Return with ship and depart pierside

****Media should bring cash to pay for food on the ship: \$2-breakfast/\$3 lunch/\$3 dinner****